

Amendments to the Claims

1, (currently amended) A method for modifying the polysaccharide/saccharide composition of a plant or plant organ, wherein said method comprises growing a transgenic plant containing a vector or recombinant expression construct containing a nucleotide sequence encoding a microbial endo-1,3-β-glucanase or endo-1,4-β-glucanase ~~endo-glucanase~~ operably linked to a regulatory sequence under conditions wherein said ~~glucanase~~ microbial endo-glucanase is expressed and the saccharide composition of said plant or plant organ is increased as a result of said expressed microbial endo-glucanase ~~glucanase~~, wherein said regulatory sequence is selected from the group consisting of

- a) a regulatory sequence that directs expression of said microbial endo-glucanase-encoding nucleotide sequence at a selected stage of development or maturity of the transgenic plant or plant organ;
- b) a regulatory sequence comprising a CaMV 35S promoter; and
- c) a regulatory sequence that directs tissue-specific expression of said microbial endo-glucanase-encoding nucleotide sequence in a plant.

2-41. (cancelled)

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said transgenic plant further contains at least one expression cassette which contain a nucleotide sequence encoding a second microbial enzyme that acts upon degradation products resulting from the action of the expressed microbial endo-glucanase ~~glucanase~~.

43-47. (cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the second microbial enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a maltase, an α-dextrinase, an α-1,6-glucosidase, a glucose isomerase and an invertase.

49-50. (Cancelled)

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said transgenic plant is selected from the group consisting of tomato, potato, corn, cassava, carrot, lettuce, strawberry and tobacco.

52-53. (cancelled)

54. (currently amended) A recombinant DNA expression cassette comprising a regulatory sequence operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a microbial endo-1,3- β -glucanase or endo-1,4- β -glucanase ~~endo-glucanase~~ which regulatory sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a regulatory sequence that directs expression of said microbial endo-glucanase-encoding nucleotide sequence at a selected stage of development or maturity of the transgenic plant or plant organ;
- b) a regulatory sequence comprising a CaMV 35S promoter; and
- c) a regulatory sequence that directs tissue-specific expression of said microbial endo-glucanase-encoding nucleotide sequence in a plant.

55. (currently amended) A vector comprising the expression cassette according to claim 54.

56. (currently amended) A transgenic plant, wherein said plant contains a stably integrated nucleotide sequence comprising a regulatory sequence operably linked to a sequence encoding a microbial endo-1,3- β -glucanase or endo-1,4- β -glucanase ~~endo-glucanase~~ resulting from the introduction of the expression cassette according to claim 54.

57. (Previously presented) A bacterial strain wherein said bacterial strain contains a vector according to claim 55.

58. (currently amended) A transgenic plant or plant organ, wherein said plant or plant organ contains microbial endo-1,3- β -glucanase or endo-1,4- β -glucanase ~~endo-glucanase~~ modified polysaccharide/saccharide material contained in a cellular compartment or organelle, said plant or plant organ being made by the method of claim 1, wherein said vector or recombinant expression construct is stably contained in said plant or plant organ.

59-60. (cancelled)

61. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said expressed microbial endo-glucanase ~~glucanase~~ is operably linked to a leader sequence, wherein said leader sequence targets the expressed microbial endo-glucanase to a cellular compartment or organelle.